



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 371 386 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
04.02.2004 Bulletin 2004/06

(51) Int Cl.7: **A61M 31/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
17.12.2003 Bulletin 2003/51

(21) Application number: 03013253.4

(22) Date of filing: 12.06.2003

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK

(72) Inventor: **Swick, Paul B.**
Lebanon, New Jersey 08833 (US)

(74) Representative:
**Groening, Hans Wilhelm, Dipl.-Ing.
BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT
Pettenkoferstrasse 20-22
80336 München (DE)**

(30) Priority: 14.06.2002 US 172729

(71) Applicant: **McNeil-PPC**
Fort Washington, PA 19034 (US)

(54) **Applicator device for suppositories and the like**

(57) An applicator for delivering pharmaceutical products or the like to a bodily cavity includes a barrel member having a distal end which is equipped with an opening. The applicator also includes a plurality of petals extending outwardly from the distal end in a generally axial direction. The petals cooperate with the opening so as to form a receptacle for releasably receiving a pharmaceutical product in the distal end of the barrel member. Each of the petals has a truncated flexible tip

sized and shaped so as to engage a substantially central portion of the pharmaceutical product such that a large section of the pharmaceutical product extends outwardly beyond the petals so as to facilitate the release of the pharmaceutical product from the receptacle. The device also includes a plunger member for releasing the pharmaceutical product from the receptacle. In accordance with the present invention, the device can be packaged in a package together with the pharmaceutical product received in the receptacle.

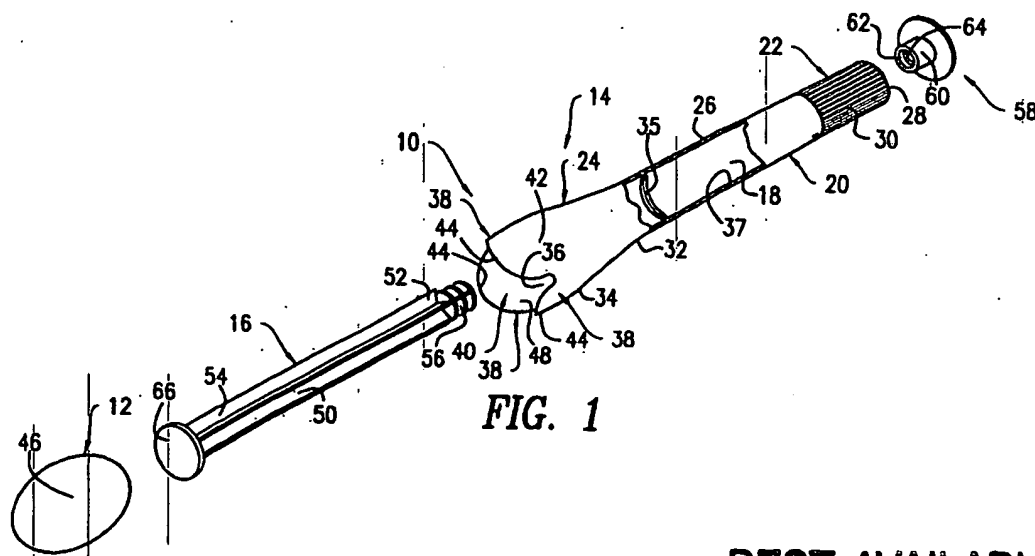


FIG. 1

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

EP 1 371 386 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 01 3253

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
| X | FR 2-610-831 A (HART LOUIS) 19 August 1988 (1988-08-19) | 1-3,9 | A61M31/00 |
| Y | * the whole document * | 4-8,10 | |
| D,Y | US 3.934 584 A (CORIO NICHOLAS N.) 27 January 1976 (1976-01-27) * abstract; figures * | 4-8 | |
| D,Y | US 3 667 465 A (VOSS JOSEPH A) 6 June 1972 (1972-06-06) * abstract; figures * | 10 | |
| A | GB 2-097 259 A (VOSS JOSEPH A) 3 November 1982 (1982-11-03) * abstract; figures * | 1,10 | |
| A | GB 956 679 A (BREV R G L SOC D EXPL DE) 29 April 1964 (1964-04-29) * the whole document * | 1,10 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) |
| | | | A61M A61F |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 12 December 2003 | Examiner Kousouretas, I |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | | | |

EPO FORM 1503 (03.02) (p.0001)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 03 01 3253

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7) |
| X | FR 2-610-831 A (HART LOUIS) 19 August 1988 (1988-08-19) | 1-3,9 | A61M31/00 |
| Y | * the whole document * | 4-8,10 | |
| D,Y | US 3,934 584 A (CORIO NICHOLAS N) 27 January 1976 (1976-01-27) * abstract; figures * | 4-8 | |
| D,Y | US 3 667 465 A (VOSS JOSEPH A) 6 June 1972 (1972-06-06) * abstract; figures * | 10 | |
| A | GB 2-097 259 A (VOSS JOSEPH A) 3 November 1982 (1982-11-03) * abstract; figures * | 1,10 | |
| A | GB 956 679 A (BREV R G L SOC D EXPL DE) 29 April 1964 (1964-04-29) * the whole document * | 1,10 | |
| | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) |
| | | | A61M A61F |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 12 December 2003 | Examiner Kousouretas, I |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

EPO FORM 1503 (03.02) (page 01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 03 01 3253

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

12-12-2003

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| FR 2610831 | A | 19-08-1988 | FR 2610831 A1 | 19-08-1988 |
| US 3934584 | A | 27-01-1976 | NONE | |
| US 3667465 | A | 06-06-1972 | CA 936774 A1 | 13-11-1973 |
| | | | DE 2056963 A1 | 09-06-1971 |
| | | | FR 2072411 A5 | 24-09-1971 |
| | | | GB 1333095 A | 10-10-1973 |
| GB 2097259 | A | 03-11-1982 | NONE | |
| GB 956679 | A | 29-04-1964 | CH 369550 A | 31-05-1963 |
| | | | FR 1272301 A | 22-09-1961 |

EPO FORM P0559

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
04.02.2004 Bulletin 2004/06

(51) Int Cl.7: **A61M 31/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
17.12.2003 Bulletin 2003/51

(21) Application number: **03013253.4**

(22) Date of filing: **12.06.2003**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK

(72) Inventor: **Swick, Paul B.**
Lebanon, New Jersey 08833 (US)

(74) Representative:
Groening, Hans Wilhelm, Dipl.-Ing.
BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT
Pettenkoferstrasse 20-22
80336 München (DE)

(30) Priority: **14.06.2002 US 172729**

(71) Applicant: **McNeil-PPC**
Fort Washington, PA 19034 (US)

(54) **Applicator device for suppositories and the like**

(57) An applicator for delivering pharmaceutical products or the like to a bodily cavity includes a barrel member having a distal end which is equipped with an opening. The applicator also includes a plurality of petals extending outwardly from the distal end in a generally axial direction. The petals cooperate with the opening so as to form a receptacle for releasably receiving a pharmaceutical product in the distal end of the barrel member. Each of the petals has a truncated flexible tip

sized and shaped so as to engage a substantially central portion of the pharmaceutical product such that a large section of the pharmaceutical product extends outwardly beyond the petals so as to facilitate the release of the pharmaceutical product from the receptacle. The device also includes a plunger member for releasing the pharmaceutical product from the receptacle. In accordance with the present invention, the device can be packaged in a package together with the pharmaceutical product received in the receptacle.

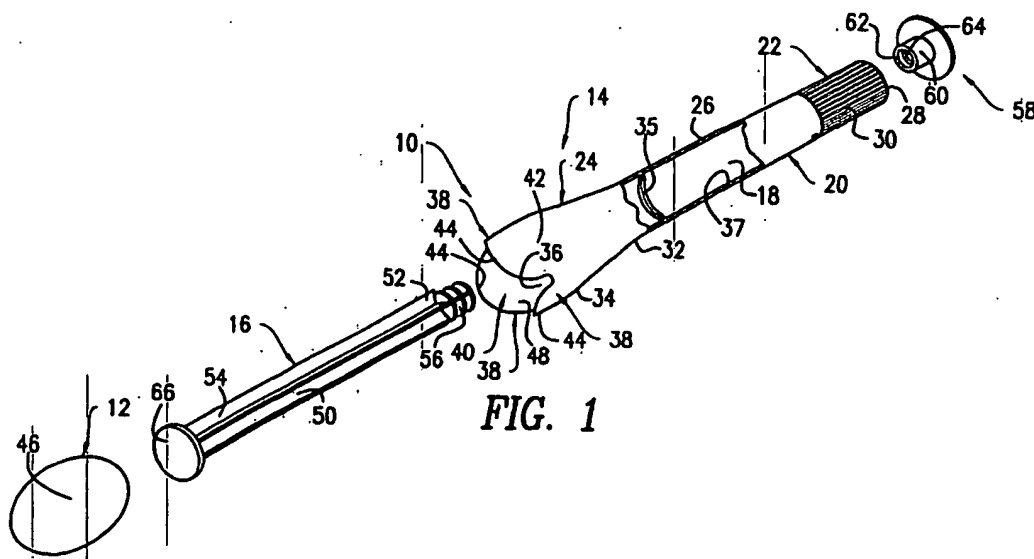


FIG. 1

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☒ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.